

## THE JOKER'S IDLE MOMENTS.

A FEW PARAGRAPHS THAT DESERVE THE TITLE OF HUMOROUS.

Far-Seeing Boy.  
(From *Texas Springs*.)

Boy (to lady in fur-lined cloak)—If youse wimmen 'll keep on wearing them furs, we won't have a cat left on the back fence to fire a brick at.

A Better Job for Him.  
(From *Chicago Tribune*.)

Seed-looking stranger (to proprietor of dime museum)—I am the only man in the country that predicted Harrison's Cabinet right. What am I worth to you per week?  
Proprietor—You missed it correctly, didn't you?  
Stranger—Called the turn on it exactly, two months ago. Here's the sheet of paper I wrote the names down on.  
Proprietor admiringly—I couldn't afford to give you what you're worth. But I have a brother who publishes a paper, and is looking for the right kind of a man to edit the circulation affairs. Go and tell him your story.

Life in Pizen Creek.  
(From *Chicago Tribune*.)

Col. Whipaw of the rattlesnake ranch, being shown to his room in the Bad Lands House—Wh—what does it say on that sign up there?  
Landlord—It says: "Guests will please remove their spurs before retiring."  
Col. Whipaw—By the way, I am a rattlesnake. I'm going to the corral and get my boss an' 'ol money. If the efete ways of the worm-out East are unworkable here like this I shall start for West to-night!

The Coming Exhibitions.  
(From *London Punch*.)

Smnyder (who thought he really would "score" with his landscape this year)—Now, what ought I to get for it?  
Art critic (cautious friend)—Three months! And pulls it all to pieces.

Undoubtedly an Impostor.  
(From *the Nebraska State Journal*.)

"What do you think of the gentleman from London you were talking with last evening, Miss Azure?"  
"I don't believe that he was ever near London."

Lula's Apprehension.  
(From *the Birmingham Republic*.)

Coward: Lying-hearted man! hissed Lula d'Emington between her set teeth, when Richard Kurlandson replied that she could only be a sister to him.

"Lula, you are excited. Your words do not count," replied Richard, calmly.  
"I'm not excited. I'm just plain myself," was all the outraged girl could utter.  
"If I am Richard the lyn' hearted, surely I am no coward."  
Another moment and he beheld the wasp of Lula d'Emington prone at his feet.

Part Accepted.  
(From *the Accident News*.)

Poet—I called in, sir, to see about that little poem I sent you some time ago.  
Editor—That poem has not been published yet, sir.

Conscience at the Bank.  
(From *Judge*.)

Depositor—Is the cashier in?  
The Janitor—He is, ma'am, for ten years. Perhaps the assistant cashier'll do, ma'am.

FRANKIE TOLD BIG FIBS.

These Girls Who Brought on the Shooting Scrape Come from Port Jervis.

Minnie Palmer, the seventeen-year-old girl who was shot by young William Dutcher in the Clinton Falls, 280 West Thirty-ninth street, Sunday night, is doing well at the Roosevelt Hospital to-day, and the doctors are sanguine. It turns out that Frankie Cortright's story that she came from Newton, L. I., six months ago is not true.

Despatches from Port Jervis show that Minnie is the daughter of Amos Palmer, a mason of that town, and that her companion's name is Myra Cortright. Both girls disappeared from Port Jervis two weeks after being seen with two young men there who were afterwards arrested for abduction. Myra's aunt with whom she lived for a short time has been arrested for abducting young girls.

When baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.  
When she was a child, she cried for Castoria.  
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.  
When she had children, she gave them Castoria.

## A VERY CLEVER SCHEME.

New and Unique Novelties, with Surprising Developments, Complete in Three Chapters.

By GEORGE R. SIMS.

Author of the "Lights of London," "Seraphim Soap," &amp;c.

CHAPTER I.

WHEREIN DETECTIVE ELLERTON GETS A PECULIAR CASE.

Mr. John Ellerton, late Inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department of Scotland Yard, sat gazing disconsolately into the embers of a dying fire towards the close of a gloomy November afternoon.

There were plenty of things besides the weather to make Mr. Ellerton take a melancholy view of the situation.

He had left Scotland Yard to "better" himself. He had made a splendid reputation as an active and intelligent detective. His knowledge of French and German, a knowledge acquired in his childhood, had enabled him to advance rapidly from the ranks to a high position in the detective force, and his gentlemanly appearance and manners had caused him to be employed upon delicate foreign missions. He had also succeeded in running to earth some of the most desperate criminals in the kingdom.

But reputation, unless it bears solid fruit in the shape of honors and rewards, is not a thing that one can spend one's whole life in cultivating. John Ellerton, after some ten years of active service, during which he had risked his life again and again in order to bring some desperate malefactor to justice,

found himself still in the receipt of the magnificent income of £3 per week and heavily in debt.

In due time, therefore, he shook the dust of the "Yard" from his feet, and having taken a couple of years down at a quiet life in a little house on a side street, he was now in the Strand he blossomed forth in the advertisements as the head of Ellerton's Private Inquiry and Detective Agency.

On the November afternoon mentioned at the commencement of this narrative, while Mr. Ellerton sat looking disconsolately into the dying embers of his office fire, things looked very black indeed.

One or two little jobs had come in, it is true, but they were not jobs out of which much money could be made, and Mr. Ellerton was beginning to think that he would have to turn his attention to something more lucrative than a private inquiry office and detective agency if he wanted to pay his creditors £30 shillings in the pound.

The clerk had gone for the day, for it was past office hours, and presently the neighboring church clock striking 6 reminded the ex-detective that he had promised his wife to take her to the theatre that evening, having received an order from an old friend, a theatrical manager, and it was time for him to make his way home and put himself into evening dress.

He rose from his chair with a weary sigh, took his hat, and was just putting on his

## CHANGES AT THE THEATRES.

TWO NEW PLAYS PRESENTED TO NEW YORK PATRONS.

The "May Queen" at Palmer's, and Miss Coghlan in "Jocelyn" at the Star-Booth. Seen Again in the "Elphinstone" at the Star-Booth. "Pat's Wardrobe" at the Theatre.

The production of "Jocelyn" at the Star-Booth last evening was a triumph for the Coghlan. Charles Coghlan was not present to respond to the repeated cries of "Author! Author!" but at the triumphant climax at the end of the third act Miss Coghlan came before the curtain and made a graceful speech of thanks on behalf of her brother.

Miss Coghlan's new play is a romantic and stirring drama of the time of Louis XIII. of France. Jocelyn, the heroine, is chaste and the ruined estate of Du Boisac, which she hopes to restore to its former splendor. To this end she half encourages the advances of Prince Savini, a wealthy adventurer, and sacrifices her plebeian lover, Gaston Marcel. Savini's excesses become known to her, however, and she refuses him.

By the way, by permission of Jocelyn's three brothers or in spite of them, a clever plot is hatched by the elder, Philip, a letter writer. He gets Jocelyn into his power and strives to force her to marry him. But Savini's mistress secretly carries word of Jocelyn's peril to Gaston, and the latter goes to the castle and rescues her. The play is full of clever expedients and gives scope to the abilities of Miss Coghlan. William H. Fox, who is to draw the marriage deeds, and James E. Wilson, who is the Gaston Marcel, will be the principal characters.

Changes at the Theatres.  
GRAND OPERA-HOUSE.  
There was a fair sized audience at the Grand Opera-House last night when Mrs. H. von H. appeared in Tom Taylor's play, "Lady Clancy." Her work in this play has been already praised in these columns. The play was nicely staged and the company effective. Miss Hattie Russell as Lady Betty Noel supplied the principal element. Miss Russell is a sister of Ash Hehan.

WINDSOR THEATRE.  
"The Runaway Wife" was presented at the Windsor Theatre last night by McKee Rankin, and the occasion was particularly interesting by the presence of the doctor, Dr. H. von H. Rankin, Miss Rankin, it may at once be said, made a distinct success. She is handsome, graceful and keenly intelligent.

THIRD AVENUE THEATRE.  
"Hazel Kirke" was revived at the Third Avenue Theatre to-night and it drew a large audience. The cast included Mrs. H. von H. Rankin, Miss Rankin, it may at once be said, made a distinct success. She is handsome, graceful and keenly intelligent.

TONY PASTOR'S.  
Banjoist Edwin French, Shaffer and Blakey, Mack Coleman, Dunn and Mack, John Daly, Miss Annie Duver, McAvoy and Barber, Macgregor and Shaffer, and others, were the performers in the programme at Tony Pastor's last night. The canine "prima donna, Jip," made a great hit.

THALIA THEATRE.  
"Pat's Wardrobe" caused unlimited mirth at H. R. Jacobs' Thalia Theatre last night. There were a large number of people present, and the play was well received. The play was nicely staged and the company effective.

THEATRE COMIQUE.  
Charles T. Ellis and an excellent company appeared at the Theatre Comique last night. The play was well received. The play was nicely staged and the company effective.

PEOPLE'S THEATRE.  
E. H. Sothern appeared in "The Highest Bidder" at the People's Theatre last night and drew a large audience. The play was well received. The play was nicely staged and the company effective.

DOCKETADEN'S.  
Kellar introduced his new automaton, "Clio," to a large audience at Docketaden's last night, and Clio acquitted itself admirably. It drew a picture of Benjamin Butler and was one of the most successful of the evening.

KOSTER AND BIAL'S.  
"A Night in Pekin" was continued at Koster & Bial's last night. Wood and Healy, Keating and Healy, and others, were the performers in the programme at Koster & Bial's last night. The canine "prima donna, Jip," made a great hit.

WORTH'S PALACE MUSEUM.  
The bill at this popular resort this week is of unusual interest and quality. In the theatre, the Palace Specialty Company of forty people, headed by Franconi, the wire walker, give hourly performances.

BROOKLYN THEATRES.  
Among the many treats offered the patrons of Col. Kim's Park Theatre this season, the one which has been the most successful, is the production of "The Runaway Wife" by McKee Rankin, and the occasion was particularly interesting by the presence of the doctor, Dr. H. von H. Rankin, Miss Rankin, it may at once be said, made a distinct success. She is handsome, graceful and keenly intelligent.

OF CHAMBER AND DINING-ROOM FURNITURE.  
Their stock cost spot cash. They fully understand their business. They will not allow themselves to be undersold by any responsible house in the United States. The demand for very cheap furniture at this time has caused us to decide to place on sale.

NOT MANUFACTURED BY US.  
\$10 SIDEBOARDS, \$7 EXTENSION TABLES, \$15 CHAMBER SUITS, \$30 PARLOR SUITS. We make a specialty of bedding and pair folding beds, \$10 to \$200 each.

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